dry; this was however borne with the greateſt chearfulneſs, and in ſome meaſure remedied by the great plenty of ſpiritous liquors in the town, and the ſoldiers (beſides their allowance) generally got a pretty tolerable ſhare of gin, that liquor being very cheap, the inhabitants who ſold or gave them any, expreſſed the greateſt aſtoniſhment on ſeeing an Engliſh ſoldier drink off ten or a dozen glaſſes of raw gin, as faſt as it could be poured out for him; and would lift up their hands and eyes in amazement to ſee him unaffected by the ſtrength of the liquor; the people of this part being themſelves very moderate drinkers, one glaſs in general ſufficing half a dozen men, who would paſs the glaſs round from one to the other, and each take a ſmall ſup, conſtantly ſmoaking a huge wooden or horn pipe of tobacco, with the greateſt compoſure; indeed, to have ſeen a Dutchman without a pipe in his mouth, would have been as great a novelty, as to have ſeen a Britiſh ſoldier refuſe gin when offered him; even the young boys, as ſoon as they could walk, would have a large pipe ſtuck in their mouth; it was obſerved by our people with great truth, that a Dutchman's face looked vacant without a pipe in his mouth.

Though the ladies of this country never ſmoak tobacco, yet they have a cuſtom which appeared

appeared much more curious to an Engliſhman; every female, of what age or condition ſoever, has a ſmall earthen pot, which in the winter, ſhe fills with hot embers from the ſtove, (fire grates they have none in this country) and placing the earthen pot in a wooden caſe, to prevent it burning her; ſhe ſits with it under her cloaths at a diſtance from the ſtove, which is always left to the men; and when the embers are gone cold, ſhe will, with the greateſt degree of *ſang froid* hand the ſmall pot to the man next her, whether a ſtranger or not, and requeſt him to fill it for her with hot embers: The ladies accuſtom themſelves ſo much to the uſe of this, that in cold weather they carry it with them to church; and when they go upon a viſit there are always a ſufficient number of theſe provided by the lady of the houſe for her viſitors; this faſhion would appear very ſtrange to a party of Engliſh ladies, yet before we left the country, our military *ladies*, or ſoldiers wives, expected to have them handed to them in great ſtyle, whenever they were ſo fortunate as to be quartered in houſes; as it ſhould be obſerved that in general the churches were the quarters of our troops; and the great church in Nimeguen, which was extremely elegant, was ſo large as to accommodate an entire Britiſh brigade of three regiments; at other

times,

times churches were converted into ſtabling for the cavalry, forage magazines, hoſpitals for the ſick and wounded, &c. &c.

Monday, 27th October. This day the enemy made an attack upon our out poſts, all of which, after a very ſevere conflict, were driven in; the French ſuffered very conſiderably in this buſineſs, as our troops were for the moſt part under cover, and could not be diſlodged without great loſs on the part of the enemy. A great number of houſes were ſet on fire this night to prevent them being a ſhelter to the French troops; the men who had the execution of the order to ſet fire to theſe houſes at ſome diſtance from the out works, were attacked by a numerous body of the enemy, who had nearly ſurrounded them, and would in all probability have ſucceeded in cutting off their retreat into the town, had it not been for a reinforcement of Hanoverians, who came up in time, and drove back the enemy to a ſhort diſtance; they were however ſoon reinforced, and returning to the charge with ſuperior numbers, in their turn drove our party under the works of the town. A ſoldier in the action this night was obſerved by his officer to drop his firelock and run towards the town, upon which the officer purſued him, to puniſh him for his ſuppoſed cowar-

dice, but the man dropped before the officer could come up with him; and on examination it was found, that the poor fellow had received a mortal wound, which was the cauſe of his attempting to run towards the town, and all he could utter, was "Oh! Sir, revenge"—when he expired-

From ſeveral wounded men that were brought in priſoners, we learned, that the French army in camp, before the town, was in a dreadful ſituation, in conſequence of the continued heavy rain; that great numbers were daily dying of fluxes, fevers, &c. caught by being continually in wet clothes, and lying upon wet ſtraw in their tents, and that great murmuring prevailed in their army, in conſequence of not being allowed to go into winter quarters; but that Pichegru had promiſed them the town of Nimeguen for their quarters in a very few days. Our troops ſuffered at this time much greater hardſhips than thoſe of the enemy, for though we had the advantage of having poſſeſſion of Nimeguen, yet it was but poor comfort for the ſoldiers to ſleep in the town not more thantwo or three nights in the week; and even then in a cold and damp church; the remainder of the week to be upon the batteries and outworks, and ſtanding for a whole night up to the knees

knees in water in the trenches; yet there was not any ſuch thing as a murmur to be heard in the Britiſh army; but every one went through his duty with the moſt chearful alacrity, though we had a number of ſick, which was not at all to be wondered at, conſidering the extreme wet weather, and fatigue occaſioned by the want of reſt.

Tueſday. 28th October. This morning a ſortie was made from the town, upon ſome advanced parties of the enemy, who were very buſily employed in throwing up works under a few farm houſes, which had been diſmantled; they retired, after making ſeveral diſcharges of muſquetry upon our detatchment, by one of which, one Britiſh officer, (Cap. Picton of the 12th foot) was wounded. There was ſcarce a day paſſed in which there was not ſome ſkirmiſhing between our out poſts of the light dragoons and the enemy's Huſſars, and they were ſometimes engaged ſo near the outworks, that they were very plainly ſeen from our batteries and the walls of the town, and the different parties plainly diſtinguiſhed by their regimentals, to the great entertainment of the ſpectators. In one of theſe ſkirmiſhes, there happened a circumſtance which deſerves to be related. A patrole of our light dragoons fell in with

with a reconnoitring party of the enemies Huſſars; a ſkirmiſh enſued; one of the dragoons making a cut at a Frenchman, ſtruck him upon the helmet, when the blade of his ſabre (*Birmingham ſtuff*) ſnapped ſhort off cloſe to the hilt, upon which he was obliged to go to the right about, and make off at full gallop; he was purſued by two of the enemy, but his horſe having the heels of them he could have very eaſily got away, had he not ſeen a French Huſſar upon the ground who had juſt been ſhot; the dragoon ſeeing his ſword lying by him, ſtooped from his ſaddle and caught up the ſword as he paſſed at full ſpeed, and immediately wheeling about, he attacked and cut down one of his purſuers who had conſiderably outrode the other, who ſeeing his comrade fall, very prudently declined the conteſt on equal terms and made off; the conqueror brought in the vanquiſhed Huſſars horſe and the two ſwords as trophies of his gallant behaviour: this fact might be doubted were it not well authenticated by ſeveral who were ſpectators of the circumſtance.

Saturday 1ſt. Nov. The enemy continued to carry on their work, notwithſtanding the continued wet weather; they had now formed ſeveral batteries, from which they threw great numbers of ſhot and ſhells into the town, though

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as yet without doing any material injury; our cannon from the walls and outworks returned their fire very warmly, and the firing was principally carried on in the night time.

What will appear very extraordinary to many, is a circumſtance which was very common here; the ſoldiers on duty in the batteries, when they had an opportunity of a few minutes reſt, would lay down wrapped up in their blankets, perhaps within a few yards of a twelve or twenty four pounder, and would ſleep undiſturbed by the tremendous roaring of the gun, though diſcharged every minute by their ſide, and very frequently with heavy rain pouring upon them. A diſagreeable accident happened at this time in the town, by the burſting of the enemy's ſhells. The grenadier company of a Highland regiment, was parading in the market place for duty, when a ſhell fell amongſt them, and burſt before they had time to get out of its way, killing and wounding ſeveral ſoldiers, and two or three of the inhabitants who happened to be near the place.

Tueſday, Nov. 4. As the enemy's works were now ſo far advanced, that with their guns and mortars, they could command any part of the town; it was reſolved upon to make a ſortie this evening, and endeavour to deſtroy ſome of their

their neareſt works, and if poſſible, to ſurpriſe them in their entrenchments; for this purpoſe, the following troops received orders to hold themſelves in readineſs in the evening, viz.

CAVALRY.

The 7th and 15th Regiments of Light Dragoons.
The Hanoverian Horſe Guards.
1 Squadron of the 2d Hanoverian Horſe.
1 Ditto . . 5th Ditto Ditto.
1 Ditto . . 10th Ditto Light Ditto.
The Emigrant Legion of Damas.

INFANTRY.

The 8th, 27th, 28th, 55th, 63d, and 78th, Britiſh Regiments.
Two Battalions of Dutch.
To cover the retreat, the 59th Britiſh Regiment.

The ſortie was conducted by the Hon. Major General De Burgh, who had the command of the whole. The troops paraded in the duſk of the evening, and marched out with the utmoſt ſilence, while the town batteries were playing very heavily from another quarter, in order to draw the attention of the enemy that way. The enemy's advanced ſentries were ſurprized before they could give the alarm, and every thing had the greateſt appearance of ſucceſs.

Our

Our troops had poſitive orders to avoid firing and to uſe only the bayonet; they had now reached the enemy's lines without being diſcovered, and with the greateſt intrepidity were proceeding to take poſſeſſion, when one of our ſoldiers fired his piece, (whether by accident or deſign was not known) which immediately gave the alarm to the enemy, who inſtantly beat to arms, turned out, and began a very heavy fire upon our troops, who undauntedly leaping in upon the French in their works, began the dreadful carnage.

It is impoſſible for deſcription to give an adequate idea of a ſcene of this kind, where quarter is neither given or expected by either party; where a body of troops animating each other to a pitch of deſperation, advance to the mouths of the enemy's cannon and muſquets, without returning a ſingle ſhot, and with fixed bayonets jump into their works with a determined reſolution to kill or be killed! To conquer or die! And as it muſt be ſuppoſed that in advancing under ſo heavy a fire, there muſt be numbers killed and wounded before they came up to the enemy; this but ſerves to encourage, or rather exaſperate the ſoldiers worſe, to ſee their deareſt friend or brother ſhot by their ſide, and to hear the pitiful groans of their wounded and dying comrades, without a poſſibility of affording them

them any, even the leaſt aſſiſtance. Theſe and other circumſtances equally diſtreſſing, conduce to give them an ardor almoſt ſupernatural; and it is well known to all the world, that that ardor in Britiſh troops, when the fate of the conteſt comes to be decided by the bayonet, was never yet, nor ever will be withſtood. The ſlaughter this night was very dreadful during the ſhort time it laſted, but from the univerſal alarm given in the French camp, the whole of their army was ſoon marched to their works which were attacked, and fell upon our troops who were occupied in deſtroying them. The conflict now was very ſevere, and numbers fell on both ſides; the troops were at times ſo intermixed, that it was very difficult to diſtinguiſh a friend from an enemy, and it was ſuppoſed that the French actually killed a number of their own people, by their raſh and undiſciplined fireing in all directions. It was computed that the enemy had upwards of five hundred put to death by the bayonet; or, as our ſoldiers expreſſed it, they were *ſkewered*, beſides what were killed by our fire. On our part, the loſs according to the returns, was as follows, viz.

BRITISH

BRITISH TROOPS.

12 Rank and File, 5 Horſes.—Killed.

13 Officers, 10 Serjeants, 149 Rank and File.—Wounded.

1 Serjeant, 19 Rank and File.—Miſſing.

FOREIGN TROOPS.

2 Officers, 1 Serjeant, 5 Rank and File.—Killed.

4 Rank and File, 22 Horſes.—Wounded.

Amongſt the wounded on this occaſion, were the Hon. Major General De Burgh, Major Malcolm, Capt. M'Kenzie, Capt. H. Munro, Lieut. Bayley and Enſign Cameron, of the 78th foot; Lieuts. Wemys, Barclay and Rutledge, of the 63d foot; Capts. Bruce and Quin, of the 55th foot; Lieutenant Baker, of the 27th foot, and Capt. Bland of the 8th foot. Of the wounds received by theſe Officers, that of Capt. Munro of the 78th, was the moſt diſtreſſing; a ball came directly acroſs the eyes of that Officer, and totally deprived him of ſight, without doing him any other material injury. A wound received by a private of the 28th, was ſomewhat extraordinary in its effect, the ball entered his mouth, and paſſed out of his

neck; of which he ſoon recovered without being injured, except in regard to his ſpeech. In this ſortie, there was not a ſingle priſoner made, the bayonet decided every thing, and the retreat was made into the town, under a tremendous fire from the enemy, which was fully anſwered from our batteries, ſo that the whole element ſeemed one continued blaze for a conſiderable time; the inhabitants were running about the ſtreets in deſpair, concluding that the French were making an attack to ſtorm the place, when they imagined they ſhould all be put to death.

This ſortie exaſperated the enemy greatly, and their works went on with additional vigour, they now kept a conſtant fire upon the town, and in the morning of

Thurſday, Nov. 6. They opened three additional batteries upon us, two of which commanded the bridge and one the town, from which they fired very heavily all this day, and did conſiderable damage to the bridge. The ſituation of the troops in Garriſon began now to be extremely alarming, for ſhould the enemy by their fire have rendered the bridge impaſſable, it would have been impoſſible for them to have avoided being made priſoners, as there was no way of eſcaping except acroſs the river, which

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is in this place nearly twice as broad as the river Thames, at Weſtminſter-bridge, and more rapid; and though there was a flying bridge at Nimeguen, which was capable of carrying over 4 or 500 men at a time, that would not have been by any means ſufficient to have brought off the whole of the troops, under the fire of the enemy; it was therefore reſolved on to evacuate the town, before the bridge ſhould be rendered totally impaſſable to the troops, which was done accordingly this evening, under a moſt heavy and tremendous fire, which the French kept up upon the bridge as the troops were paſſing; which did conſiderable damage, and wounded ſeveral ſoldiers, and in the end totally deſtroyed the bridge of boats, juſt as the laſt of our troops had paſſed it. The Dutch troops were not ſo fortunate, about 400 of them were croſſing by flying bridge, when a chance ball from the enemy broke off the maſt to which the rope was made faſt that towed it over; the bridge conſequently ſwung round, and fell into the hands of the enemy with the troops upon it; it was however ſoon after deſtroyed by our fire from the oppoſite ſhore.

The French threw up light balls during the time our troops were paſſing the bridge, by which means, though the night was very dark, they

they could diſtinctly perceive our men, yet their fire was not well directed, otherwiſe it muſt have done more conſiderable execution; it was a matter of great ſurpriſe to our artillery, how they could poſſibly avoid driving the bridge to atoms, while the troops were paſſing it, from the number of ſhot and ſhells which were fired during the time, but their guns being generally too much elevated, the ſhot went conſiderably over the mens heads, making a moſt tremendous whiſtling as they paſſed.

It was found that a few ſtragglers of the Britiſh troops were left in the town, as it was ſuppoſed for the ſake of plunder, but theſe were immediately put to death by the inhabitants, the inſtant they could be found after the French had taken poſſeſſion of the place; and the tri coloured cockade was mounted immediately by the towns people, who took every method of ingratiating themſelves with the French troops, and exclaimed as much as poſſible againſt the Britiſh, as a few hours before they had done againſt the Carmagnols.

Wedneſday Nov. 12. The proſpect before our army for winter quarters, was now very diſagreeable, as inſtead of being comfortably accommodated, as we had flattered ourſelves we ſhould

ſhould have been, there was now no other expectation, than to paſs a dreary winter in a cold country, in tents upon the banks of the river Waal, and to go through the ſevereſt duty, without the common comforts of life; and the diſtreſſed ſituation of the army for cloathing was at this time very great; ſome regiments having loſt the whole of their neceſſaries by their tranſports falling into the hands of the enemy, and many of the ſoldiers had hardly a coat to wear. It was no uncommon thing, to ſee an officer with the ſkirts of his regimental coat cut off, to repair the body of it, or to keep it whole at the elbows. Shoes and ſtockings too, were much wanted, as the weather was very wet, and the roads and fields exceedingly dirty, ſo that the troops were conſtantly wet in their feet, which rendered their ſituation extremely uncomfortable, as from the time of the evacuation of Nimeguen, they were conſtantly employed in making batteries and throwing up works to defend Holland to the laſt; and ſuch was the ſtrength and advantage of our ſituation upon the river Waal, that it was confidently aſſerted by the moſt ſkilful Officers, that it would be impoſſible for the French ever to force the paſſage of that river, provided it ſhould not be frozen over; a circumſtance which had not happened for a great number of years, ſo as to admit

admit the croſſing of an army. As it was, it would have been almoſt madneſs for them to attempt to force a paſſage, even with their whole army, as it would certainly have coſt them the ſacrifice of a great part of it; though the loſs of *men* was no object to the Convention, provided they could make themſelves maſters of Holland; but ſhould they be ſo fortunate as to force a paſſage by croſſing the Rhine high up, and thereby turn our left flank, or by forcing a paſſage below Bommel ſo as to turn our right, then the inundations alone could ſave Holland from their devaſtation; but it was highly improbable they ſhould *force* a paſſage any where, if the froſt did not favour them.

The following is an account of the Britiſh Regiments, whoſe ſole object now was the preſervation of Holland, by preventing the French from croſſing the Waal.

CAVALRY.

CAVALRY.

1ſt Reg. Royal Horſe Guards, or Oxford Blues.

1	Ditto or King's, ...	Dragoon Guards.
2	Ditto or Queen's Bays, .	
3	Ditto or Prince of Wales's,	
5	Ditto or Green, ...	
6	Ditto or Carbineers, . .	
1	Ditto or Royal Engliſh, .	Dragoons.
2	Ditto or Scots Greys, . .	
6	Ditto or Inniſkilling, . .	
7	Ditto	Light Dragoons.
8	Ditto	
11	Ditto	
14	Ditto	
15	Ditto	
16	Ditto	
17	Ditto	

Total 16 Regiments Britiſh Cavalry.

INFANTRY.

Regiments.		Regiments.	
1	Guards.	44	
2		53	
3		54	
3		55	
8		57	
12		59	
14		63	
19		78	Highlanders.
27		79	
28		80	
33		84	
37		85	
38		87	
40		88	
42	Highlanders.	89	
—		—	
15		15	
15		—	
—			

Total 30 Regiments of Britiſh Infantry.

Beſides the ſeveral corps of Artillery, Artificers, Waggoners and other neceſſary attendants, upon ſo numerous an army; to which may be added the Foreign troops in Britiſh pay, as Hanoverians, Heſſians, Emigrants, York Rangers, &c.; forming, together with the Dutch troops an immenſe army, which effectually

tually covered the banks of the Waal, and which would in all human probability, be a complete check to the deſign of the French penetrating into Holland acroſs that river.

Thurſday, Nov. 13. This day a flag of truce was announced from Nimeguen, by a French trumpet; on being anſwered from our picquet at the village of Lent, oppoſite that place, a French officer, attended by a trumpeter and ſervant, came in a ſmall boat acroſs the river, rowed by two Dutchmen wearing the National Cockade; on landing, he was met by an Engliſh officer, who after having blindfolded him by putting his handkerchief acroſs his eyes, conducted him to the quarters of the commanding officer of the picquet, where his eyes were uncovered and he delivered his diſpatches, which were immediately forwarded by a dragoon, to the head quarters at Arnheim, the purport of which related to an agreement between the Duke of York and the French General, that the ſentries at the out poſts ſhould not fire at each other, which could only occaſion a loſs of men on both ſides, without the leaſt advantage to either; our ſentries had conſtantly received orders not to fire at thoſe of the enemy, but theirs had frequently taken an advantage and fired at ours, which was now effectually put

a ſtop to. During the time the French officer with the flag remained on our ſide the Waal, both ſides the river were covered with Britiſh and French ſoldiers, who during the truce, could with propriety ſatisfy their curioſity in having a complete view of each other. The trumpeter and the officer's ſervant who came in the boat, landed on the beach, but were not permitted to go into the village; they were plentifully treated by our ſoldiers with liquor, &c. while the officer was taking a bottle of wine with our commanding officer. The ceremony of blindfolding was again repeated on going back to the boat, where the parties took leave, apparently well pleaſed with each other. A flag of truce going from our ſide a ſhort time after, met with exactly the ſame reception from the French in Nimeguen.

Sunday, Nov. 16. As the froſt was not yet ſet in, and the weather very wet, the number of our ſick encreaſed daily; the tents were conſtantly ſoaked through, and the ſtraw in them could not be kept dry, though changed very often, which conſequently brought on a great deal of ſickneſs amongſt the troops in camp; what contributed moſt to their comfort, was the great plenty of wood with which this country abounded, by which the troops were enabled

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to keep very large fires conſtantly in the camp, and upon the picquets; without which it would have been impoſſible to have exiſted; the cheapneſs of gin too, contributed not a little to keeping up the ſpirits, and preventing the men from catching colds and other diſorders, occaſioned by their wet ſituation; the duty on the banks of the Waal being very heavy, and the nights extremely cold, which was very ſeverely felt by the troops owing to their want of warm cloathing.

On the part of the French, there did not as yet ſeem to be any appearances of their attempting to force a paſſage acroſs the river; though conſiderable bodies of their troops were moving towards Bommel, againſt which place it was conjectured (ſhould they attempt to croſs) their efforts would be directed; but very little fear was entertained for that place, as it was ſufficiently protected while the river remained open.

Thurſday, Nov. 20. Great numbers of workmen were ſtill employed in conſtructing works upon the banks of the Waal, to diſpute the paſſage of that river, and no one entertained the leaſt doubt of our being able to prevent the enemy croſſing, provided the froſt did not favor their deſigns. A Dutch officer came from Nimeguen

meguen on his parole, and reported that the French were in general anxious for peace, but complained much of their heavy duty, and were highly exaſperated againſt the Engliſh, for oppoſing their paſſage into Holland; as they had information that great part of the inhabitants, and even of the Dutch troops were inclined to favour their cauſe; of this we had but too great reaſon to be aſſured, as the Dutch took frequent occaſion to expreſs their diſlike to the Britiſh troops, whom the common people conſidered as an uſeleſs burthen to their country; though it is moſt probable that by this time, they would again prefer Britiſh protection, to French *fraternization*.

Sunday, Nov. 23. The froſt for ſeveral days had ſet in rather ſeverely, and it was found that the troops could not poſſibly exiſt in their tents during the ſevere cold, though the reduction of the regiments by ſickneſs, and other cauſes, was ſo great that moſt of the men had double tents, yet theſe were not by any means ſufficient to keep out the cold; it was therefore reſolved upon, that thoſe troops which were encamped, ſhould built huts of ſods and thatch them over, to make their winter quarters more comfortable; great numbers were accordingly daily employed in this occupation. The regiments

ments which were encamped before Nimeguen, (viz. the 3d, 40th, 55th, 59th and 79th, with one regiment of Hanoverians) built a ſmall town of theſe huts on the ground of their encampment, which was on the road to Arnheim, from it was diſtant ſix miles, and three from the village of Lent, on the banks of the Waal, oppoſite Nimeguen, to which village the picquets were detached, where they remained 48 hours on duty.

Tueſday, Dec. 2. The froſt ſtill continued, with ſome intervals of mild weather and ſome ſnow; the building of the huts went forward with alacrity.

All remained quiet on the part of the enemy, who ſeemed as much inclined to a little reſt as we were; and we now looked for no other winter quarters than the ſituation we were in, nor was there any apprehenſion of the river Wall being froze over; for though the froſt had been pretty ſevere, it had as yet made but little progreſs on that river. His Royal Highneſs the Commander in Chief, this day ſet out from head quarters at Arnheim, for England, by way of the Hague, and the command of the Britiſh army now devolved upon Sir William Erſkine.

Sunday,

Sunday, Dec. 7. By this time the huts were all compleated for the reception of the troops, and were found much more comfortable than the tents, in which there had actually been one or two ſoldiers frozen to death. In the huts the men were enabled to keep fires, which rendered their ſituation a little more agreeable. The want of neceſſary cloathing was now ſeverely felt, as the cold began to grow very intenſe. The officers of ſeveral regiments ſet on foot a ſubſcription to furniſh their men with a few comforts of life; the regimental cloathing of great part of the troops being worn out, it was curious to ſee what ſhifts ſome of the ſoldiers were put to, to keep themſelves warm and comfortable—one would have on, a huge pair of Dutchman's wide breeches to his regimental jacket; another would have a large full trimmed Burgomaſter's coat on, by way of ſurtout, and another, to his red jacket would have ſewed, a pair of wide black or brown ſleeves with long hanging cuffs; with other curious contraſts of cloathing equally diverting; ſo that from the motley appearance of ſome of the troops, it would have been a difficult matter even for an Engliſhman juſt arrived to tell to what nation they belonged; all that was neceſſary here, was to keep the arms and ammunition in good order, as very little attention was paid to dreſs. The high-

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landers at this time, from the ſeverity of the weather, were under the neceſſity of leaving off wearing their kelts, or ſhort petticoats, and were furniſhed with pantaloons or cloſe trowſers, which were much more comfortable for them; the French had diſtinguiſhed them by the name of "*Vrai ſans culottes.*"

Sunday, Dec. 14. The froſt ſtill continued with unabated rigor, and the weather was now intenſely cold. The French, ſince the departure of the Duke of York, remained tolerably quiet upon the Waal. Our troops at this time were in high ſpirits in conſequence of a report that we were to be relieved by a body of Auſtrians and Pruſſians, who were on their march for that purpoſe; and that we were to go into winter quarters on the other ſide of the Rhine, for which preparatory orders were iſſued, and three bridges already conſtructed for the paſſage of our army; but theſe preparations were by ſome ſuppoſed to be, to favor our retreat in caſe of the French croſing the Waal; though as yet, there did not appear to be any preparations on their ſide, except a few ſmall boats and rafts; but they could not be of any ſervice to them in an attempt to croſs while there was any ice in the river, and which was now frozen from the ſides, a conſiderable way acroſs,

acroſs, though not ſo much as to cauſe the leaſt ſuppoſition that the river would be frozen over ſo as to admit the paſſage of their army; we were therefore pretty eaſy on that account.

At this time, the High Bailey of the diſtrict from Tiel to Nimeguen, iſſued a proclamation to all the inhabitants in his diſtrict along the banks of the Waal, to quit their habitations, and give them up for the accommodation of the troops on the banks of the river; this cauſed the French to ſuppoſe that our expected reinforcement was arrived, and they called acroſs the river, that they were going to evacuate that part of the country for the winter, and that if we took poſſeſſion of it, we ſhould not find a pound of bread, or a ſingle article of proviſion for our troops; of this information we did not entertain the ſmalleſt doubt, as we knew the difficulty their army found in ſubſiſting, not only in conſequence of the gallant defence of Grave, which ſtill held out and cut off their communication by the Meuſe; but that our army had pretty well cleared the country of proviſions before our evacuation of it.

The French had all along kept up a very ſevere bombardment upon Grave, which was diſtinctly heard (eſpecially in the night) at our poſts

poſts on the banks of the Waal; it muſt certainly have been a very provoking circumſtance to the French General, that he could not reduce ſo ſmall a garriſon in the very centre of his army, and which entirely cut off the communication of his wings by the river Meuſe, thereby cauſing his ſupplies to go a conſiderable way round by waggons, through very bad roads, which muſt have been very tedious and have diſtreſſed the French army much, which now ſuffered conſiderably not only from the cold, but for want of regular ſupplies. The allowance of beef to our troops was encreaſed half a pound per day, in conſequence of their hard duty and the exceſſive cold; a ſoldier's daily allowance now was per day, beef 1 lb. bread 1 lb. and ſpirits half a pint; with this allowance and potatoes, greens, &c. for which they foraged, they made out a tolerable good living, as coffee being very plentiful it was ſold by the ſoldiers wives, and a man might for a penny, have an excellent breakfaſt of coffee, but he muſt find his own bread and butter. The bread was in general of a very indifferent kind, being made of (what is called in England) buck wheat, which makes very black bread; it would ſometimes be ſo frozen in the huts, that the men were under the neceſſity of either cutting it with

a hatchet, or laying it on the fire a conſiderable time to thaw before a knife would penetrate it.

Thurſday, Dec. 18. The froſt ſtill continued with great ſeverity; the canals and ponds were now all frozen over, and the ice extended a conſiderable way acroſs the river Waal; our ſentries in the night were poſted upon the ice, as near the edge as was prudent, as were thoſe of the enemy, ſo that by this means they came pretty near, and frequently entertained each other with a little converſation, though in general it was not of the moſt *elegant* kind; the French calling our ſoldiers by the nick-names of *Jean Taureau*, *Jack-roaſt-beef*, and other names equally curious; our ſoldiers treated them with leſs ceremony, calling them in plain Engliſh *Damn'd King-killing ſons of B—s*, *paper money ſcoundrels*, and other opprobrious epithets, which very frequently irritated them to a very great pitch, inſomuch that they would vow revenge againſt all Engliſhmen; their converſation was not always carried on in the aforeſaid *genteel* manner, but ſometimes intermixed with a little pleaſantry, as the following diſcourſe which took place between an Engliſh and French ſentry will ſhew; they had been ſpeaking in praiſe of their reſpective governments, manner of living, cloathing, &c. when the Engliſh-

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man obſerved to the other, that he ſhould not like to be in the Convention ſervice, becauſe moſt of their ſoldiers were barefooted and obliged to march without ſhoes. "Ay, ſays "the Frenchman, that is very true, but how can "we poſſibly keep ſhoes to our feet, when we "wear out ſo many in running after you Mr. "Engliſhman."

Our number of ſick was now very great, and many deaths happened daily, which was the leſs to be wondered at, when it was conſidered what the troops ſuffered for the want of warm cloathing to protect them from the ſeverity of the weather, eſpecially as the duty became heavier, in proportion to the number of thoſe who died or were ſick.

Sunday, Dec. 21. Our army had now the very pleaſing ſatisfaction of being aſſured, that their fair countrywomen had not been unmindful of their hardſhips and ſufferings abroad; but that from the very liberal exertions of the ladies, a competent ſupply of warm winter cloathing was actually landed on the continent, and now on its way to the army; the pleaſure with which this information was received, is more eaſy to be conceived than deſcribed, and every heart panted for an opportunity of proving in the field againſt the common enemies of their country,

try, humanity, and religion, that gratitude and love to their loyal and generous benefactreſſes, with which they were inſpired by their unparrelled goodneſs and generoſity. This preſent, had been talked of in the army for ſome time, but many of the ſoldiers concluded it was nothing more than a report propagated in order to keep up their ſpirits; but were agreeably ſurpriſed to find it real, and that they were not forgot or neglected in their exertions, more eſpecially as the winter was now ſet in with the utmoſt violence; the cold was intenſe, the picquets were 48 hours on duty before they were relieved, or had their cloathes or accoutrements off, and the ſentries inſtead of remaining upon their poſt two hours as had been cuſtomary, were from the extreme cold obliged to be relieved every hour, as it was not poſſible to ſtand longer without running the riſk of being froſtbitten, and which had already happened to ſome of the men. The ice upon the river Waal was now frozen ſo thick and firm at the ſides and for a conſiderable way acroſs, that our ſentries and thoſe of the enemy, were in ſome places within twenty yards of each other upon the edge ice, and as ſerious apprehenſions were now entertained of the river being frozen over, from the long continuance of the froſt, or that the enemy might contrive ſome means to croſs in

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its preſent ſtate, it was judged neceſſary that our ſentries ſhould paſs the word "*all's well!*" from one to the other every five minutes. This afforded great diverſion to the enemy, who not comprehending the meaning of that piece of duty, or imagining it to proceed from fear on our part, took great delight in crying out all's well in deriſion of our ſentries, which frequently occaſioned a good deal of altercation between the parties, as there were numbers in the French army who underſtood Engliſh.

As this country abounds in canals and pieces of water, which were now all frozen to an immenſe thickneſs, the principal amuſement of the troops when off duty, was in ſkating, and other ways entertaining themſelves upon the ice; what alſo added to their diverſion, was ſeeing with what dexterity the Dutch women and children ſkated, the former frequently with heavy baſkets or other burthens upon their heads, which they carried with the greateſt apparent eaſe upon the ice, and were never ſeen to get a fall; the children learned to ſkate as ſoon as they could well walk, by means of a ſmall chair, which was put upon the ice with them, and they were then left to themſelves, but by ſupporting themſelves by the back of the chair and puſhing

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it before them, they ſoon learned to keep their feet and go alone.

Thurſday, Dec. 25. (Chriſtmas day.) This was one of the coldeſt days ever known in this country, though rendered one of the moſt agreeable to the troops by the arrival of a quantity of the flannel cloathing in camp, which was immediately diſtributed amongſt the ſoldiers, to their great ſatisfaction and comfort, who on this occaſion, and in honor of the day, were allowed a weeks pay to drink to the health of their fair benefactreſſes at home, and to provide as comfortable a Chriſtmas dinner as the preſent ſituation would admit of, and the camp this evening exhibited a ſcene of feſtivity, truly expreſſive of the Britiſh character; it was really a very entertaining ſight to go into the huts and ſee a group of ſoldiers ſet round their fire, ſurrounded by arms and accoutrements and half obſcured by ſmoak, drinking to the health of their friends at home out of a large camp kettle, filled with a compoſition of gin, beer, and ſugar, made hot; and paſſing round the ſong and the toaſt with as much glee and regularity, as though they had been ſeated round the table of the happieſt Chriſtmas party in England. The following ſong as it was written and ſung in this ſituation may not be unacceptable.

TUNE

TUNE—THE VICAR OF BRAY.

When Royal George ſpreads wars alarms,
And rouzes Britain's Iſle, Sir,
The hardy ſoldier flies to arms
And at the ſound will ſmile, Sir.
To curb the impious ſons of France,
The field he takes with joy, Sir,
And when to fight he does advance,
He'll conquer, or he'll die, Sir.

CHORUS.

Then oh! reſpect Brittania's ſon,
For war renown'd in ſtory,
Who'll neither death or danger ſhun,
But fights for Britain's glory.

II.

His knapſack 'coutrements and gun,
Are all he has to boaſt, Sir,
With tent, poor ſhade from ſcorching ſun, Sir,
Chill rain, or piercing froſt, Sir,
And thus equipt, to war he goes,
Forſakes his peaceful lands, Sir,
Nor fears a jot to meet his foes,
But ſtill undaunted ſtands Sir.

III.

III.

When many a weary day he's march'd,
For honour and for fame, Sir.
O'er burning ſands or deſarts parch'd,
Exhauſted, tir'd and lame, Sir.
His country's glory fires his heart,
No other motive cheers him.
For this he's ever found alert,
For this his foe ſtill fears him.

IV.

In darkeſt night he'll pitch his tent,
Upon ſome watery ground, Sir;
His order comes, on duty ſent,
No reſt for him is found, Sir;
His nightly turn of guard he takes,
His comrades dear protecting,
And while with weary ſtep he wakes,
Is ſtill on home reflecting.

V.

When ſore oppreſs'd by hungers need,
And enemies around him,
On fruit or herbs when forc'd to feed,
No troubles e'er confound him;

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When oft the faithful horſe is ſlain,
No other food obtaining,
He ne'er repines—alas! 'tis vain,
His murm'ring or complaining.
And when in battle's raging heat,
He's cover'd o'er with wounds, Sir,
At home he'll find a ſafe retreat,
In Chelſea's peaceful bounds, Sir,
His King and Country him befriend,
Or aged, maim'd or wounded;
And here his days in peace he'll end,
By happineſs ſurrounded.

At midnight an opportunity offered for deſtroying ſeveral boats which were lying under the walls of Nimeguen, and for which purpoſe, five Britiſh ſeamen had been waiting ſome time in the oppoſite village; they found means to croſs that ſmall part of the river which was not frozen over, by means of a Norway yawl which was brought from Arnheim, and they ſucceeded in their undertaking, by ſcuttling ſix of the boats, after which they returned undiſcovered by the enemy's ſentries; this was deemed a very hazardous enterprize, and gained the ſailors great honor.

Friday, Dec. 26. This day a ſutler and his wife (foreigners) were apprehended on ſuſpicion

of being ſpies, and papers were found on the woman which contained ſketches of ſeveral of our works and batteries, which they in the capacity of ſutlers had frequent opportunities of obtaining; theſe were not the only perſons who were taken up on that ſuſpicion, as ſeveral were already in cuſtody, (moſtly Dutch,) and ſuch was the friendſhip of our good allies the Dutch, that in order to have done away that evil effectually, it would have been neceſſary to have hung up one half of the inhabitants of both ſexes, as they never neglected an opportunity of communicating to the French, every information reſpecting our army, that lay in their power; but on the other ſide the Waal the inhabitants were of another way of thinking; as there they were heartily tired of their *good friends*, the diſpenſers of freedom and protectors of property, and the aſſignats were at this time ſo little thought of by the Dutch, that they frequently choſe to make a preſent of their property and reject the national currency; the French however, choſe to conſtrue ſuch conduct, into an acknowledgment on the part of the natives for the favors conferred on them.

Saturday, Dec. 27. The ſituation of our army became every day more intereſting, as from the increaſing thickneſs of the ice, it was probable

probable that the enemy would very ſoon attempt to force a paſſage acroſs the river; our heavy artillery, baggage and ſick, were all on the other ſide the Rhine, and every precaution was taken on our part to ſecure a retreat in caſe of being overpowered, and which from the very great reduction of our numbers, would at this time prove no very difficult matter.

The enemy did not long keep us in a ſtate of uncertainty with regard to their intentions, for this afternoon they croſſed the ice with eight thouſand men at the important paſs of Bommel; this iſland was now occupied by the Dutch, who ſhould have had five battalions to defend it, but they had thought proper to withdraw three of them, and left this (the moſt important paſs upon river) to be maintained by no more than two battalions, who ſuffered the enemy to croſs the ice (unaccompanied by either artillery or cavalry) without giving them a ſingle ſhot!

The Dutch Commander ſaid he was unguarded, from having given credit to the report of an armiſtice ſaid to have been agreed upon between the allied powers and the enemy; though he had taken care to ſend off that part of his artillery which he did not think proper

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ſhould fall into the hands of his friends the *carmagnols*.

Our attention was now turned towards Bommel, as it was abſolutely neceſſary to drive the French back, or to give up the defence of the river entirely and evacuate Holland; it was therefore reſolved upon to attack them as ſoon as poſſible, and the neceſſary orders were immediately iſſued to Major General David Dundas, who was appointed to the command of the troops deſtined for this ſervice, and as it would unavoidably take ſome time to make the arrangements and to reconnoitre the enemy, the attack was fixed for the morning of the 30th.

The troops deſtined for this ſervice, conſiſted of ten battalions of Britiſh infantry, the Emigrants of La Chatre, ſix ſquadrons Britiſh light cavalry, and one hundred and fifty huſſars of Rohan, divided into brigades under the command of Major General Sir Robert Lawrie, Major General Lord Cathcart, Major General Gordon, and Lieutenant Colonel M'Kenzie; with four battalions and four ſquadrons of Heſſians, under the command of Major General de Wurmb. The whole of the troops were ordered to carry with them three days bread and forage, and were in high ſpirits, no one entertaining

entertaining the ſmalleſt doubt of our being able to drive them back, though our numbers on this ſervice were ſmall when compared with thoſe of the enemy and the ſituation they were in, and the nature of our country was ſuch, that our cavalry found it in many places extremely difficult to proceed on account of the numerous frozen canals and ditches which they had to croſs, and on which it was very difficult for the horſes to keep their feet though ever ſo well provided for the froſt.

Sunday, Dec. 28. During this day the troops deſtined for the poſt of honor, were aſſembling and the neceſſary preparations making to entertain the enemy, who we learned had eſtabliſhed themſelves in Tiel, in great force, as well as in the village of Wardenberg, where they had a conſiderable number of men poſted, and had cut down great numbers of trees from the orchards, of which they had formed abbatis, and fortified themſelves in the beſt manner time and circumſtances would admit of. About 12 o'clock this night, it was ſuppoſed the enemy were going to make an attempt to croſs from Nimeguen, as there was a ſtir obſerved in the place, and they fired one ſhot at our poſt oppoſite, which was immediately anſwered by ſeveral rounds from

from our cannon, this created an alarm and the troops turned out, but the buſineſs ended here.

Monday, Dec. 29. Our principal hoſpital which till this time had been at Rhenen, in the province of Utrecht, on the other ſide the river Leck, was ordered to be removed to Deventer, in the province of Over Yſſel, acroſs the river Yſſel; this removal of the ſick and wounded at this inclement ſeaſon of the year, a diſtance of not leſs than fifty Engliſh miles, (by the circuitous route the waggons were obliged to take) nothing but the moſt urgent neceſſity could juſtify, which was now the caſe; for ſhould we not ſucceed in our attempts to force the French to re-croſs the river Waal, the whole of our unfortunate ſick and wounded men, muſt inevitably have fell into their hands, and we were as yet ignorant of the treatment which that (hitherto generous) enemy might have given them. Our *good and faithful* allies the Dutch, had taken every occaſion to behave to thoſe poor ſufferers with the moſt illiberal brutality, augmenting as much as in their power, their ſufferings, by every ſpecies of mean inſult, unbecoming the character of a civilized nation; they had even extended their cruelty ſo far as to inſult the ſurgeons and perſons employed in th neceſſary attendance on the hoſpitals, and en

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deavoured to prevent the ſupplies of nouriſhment being procured in ſeveral of their towns where hoſpitals were eſtabliſhed. After ſuch treatment from perſons who were our allies, and whoſe country we were defending, what might not be expected from an enraged and ferocious enemy, rendered more ſo by the oppoſition of our ſmall army, which had ſubjected them to all the rigours of the field in a cold climate, and in one of the ſevereſt winters ever remembered by the oldeſt inhabitant of that climate. It was therefore abſolutely neceſſary to remove our brave ſick and wounded comrades at all events; though the French afterwards fully proved that they had not loſt ſight of that generoſity with which they had formerly treated their Britiſh priſoners of war.

The Dutch from Utrecht this day ſent a meſſage to our head quarters at Arnheim, to know what was become of their two battalions, which were left in Bommel, as they had not yet been able to procure any information reſpecting them; they might at this time with great propriety number them amongſt their *miſſing*, *loſt*, or *miſlaid*, as citizen Pichegru had *fraternized* them in his own army, not much againſt their will. A detachment of Heſſians who were with the Dutch in Bommel when the French croſſed, made

made good their retreat and joined the Britiſh army, but the Dutch voluntarily ſurrendered.

This night the troops for tomorrow's attack marched in three columns to their reſpective deſtinations, in order to be ready to begin the attack early in the morning; the froſt continued with unabated rigour and the troops had not any covering during the night, but this did not in the leaſt diminiſh their ardor as they marched to the ſcene of action and cheared each other with the greateſt degree of ſpirit.

Tueſday, Dec. 30. The right column conſiſting of four Britiſh battalions and the huſſars of Rohan, under the command of Lord Cathcart, marched by the villages of Haafden and Rumb, to take Tiel in the rear; the other Britiſh column went by the village of Metteren, and the Heſſian column proceeded to Waardenbourg, near which place the two latter joined at day break; the column under Lord Cathcart could not get up in time, the road by which he was to have marched being found ſo impaſſable, that he was under the neceſſity of going a conſiderable way about; however, General Dundas finding on his arrival at Waardenbourg, that the enemy had abandoned that place in the night, and had retired to join their countrymen

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in Tiel, reſolved not to looſe any time in waiting for the third column to come up, but immediately to puſh on with what troops he had, and begin the attack upon Tiel; this was done, and with ſuch ſpirit and impetuoſity, that notwithſtanding the great ſtrength of the place, the batteries which flanked the approach of our troops, the abbatis of fruit trees that were made, and the number of troops who defended it, the place was carried on the firſt attack by the two columns (Britiſh and Heſſians) and the enemy were driven back acroſs the ice with the loſs of a conſiderable number of men, and four pieces of cannon, which they had brought over the preceding day; the loſs on our part was very trifling conſidering the nature of the attack and the numbers of the enemy, which greatly exceeded ours; we had of the Britiſh troops one field officer (Brevet Major Murray, of the 78th regiment) and five rank and file killed, one officer (Lieut. Lindſay 78th) and nineteen rank and file wounded, and one ſerjeant miſſing; of the Heſſians, one officer wounded, one miſſing, and twenty five rank and file killed and wounded, ſo that our whole loſs in killed wounded and miſſing in this important affair, amounted only to fifty four, with the advantages of having taken four pieces of cannon, killed and wounded

a conſiderable number of the enemy and forced them to re-croſs the Waal with precipitation.

Our troops ſuffered very ſeverely in this buſineſs, not only from their heavy march previous to the action, but alſo from exceſſive cold and the want of ſhelter in the night.

We learned from the French that Grave had capitulated to their army on the 28th, which confirmed our ſuſpicions, as till within a few days paſt our poſts upon the banks of the Waal had very plainly heard the bombardment of that place, and as that had entirely ceaſed, it was ſuppoſed to have ſurrendered; it was moſt gallantly defended, and it was matter of ſurpriſe to our army that it had held out ſo long, when ſurrounded by ſo numerous an army which effectually cut off every communication with that fortreſs.

We alſo learned that the French intended to paſs the river Wall in ſeveral places, at the time they paſſed at Bommel, but as we had not heard any thing of their having paſſed, it was concluded to be a little of their uſual gaſconade, and our having ſo eaſily repulſed them in this firſt attempt, gave our troops the greateſt hopes that in every other, they would meet with the

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ſame ſucceſs; and thoſe of the Dutch inhabitants who were loyal, were greatly pleaſed at this ſucceſsful enterprize of General Dundas.

Wedneſday, Dec. 31. The year now brought to a cloſe, and the froſt continuing with unabated rigour, preſented no other proſpect to view than what had long been dreaded by us, that the Waal would be every where paſſable on the ice, (which was now nearly the caſe) and that the enemy would then make a grand attempt to croſs, from a number of points at one and the ſame time, and by pouring upon our weakened army with immenſe bodies of troops, effectually ſucceed in obliging us to abandon our ſituation on the Waal, and of courſe totally evacuate Holland.

Their firſt ineffectual attempt to croſs the river, though it ſerved greatly to exhilarate the ſpirits of our ſoldiers, was not to be conſidered as a matter of conſequence, but merely as a diverſion, and with a view to obtain ſome idea of the number and condition of the troops we could bring againſt them; and though in this attempt they muſt have been convinced of our weakneſs in point of number, yet they muſt at the ſame time have been convinced that thoſe few were not by any means deficient in point of courage,

courage, or wanting of inclination to give them a warm reception whenever they would chooſe to pay a viſit to our ſide the river, and from the beſt accounts that could be procured, it was found that they were forming large bodies of troops, avowedly for the purpoſe of forcing the paſſage of the river for a very conſiderable extent, from which deſign, nothing but a ſpeedy and effectual thaw (of which we had no hopes) could prevent them; what remained for us therefore, was to uſe our utmoſt endeavours whenever they ſhould croſs, to repel them.

Saturday, Jan. 3, 1795. The enemy as yet had not again attempted to croſs the ice, though they were buſied in collecting large bodies of troops oppoſite Bommel, at Nimeguen and other places, ſeemingly determined to repair their late diſgrace, and to effect by numbers what they could not by courage; in the mean time, the ſeverity of the froſt continuing, our troops ſuffered ſo much for want of ſhelter, that it was judged neceſſary that they ſhould take up a poſition on the Lingen, (a ſmall river between the Waal and Leck) and leave only out poſts on the Waal; this was accordingly done this evening, and that head quarters might be nearer the ſcene of action, they were removed from

Arnheim,

Arnheim, to the village of Emerongen, a ſituation ſeveral miles nearer Bommel.

Sunday, Jan. 4. From the movements of the enemy oppoſite Bommel, it was concluded they would ſoon favor us with another viſit, and all were in axious expectation till evening, when they again croſſed upon Bommel in very great force, bringing over with them ſeveral pieces of cannon, which they effected by laying ſtraw and ſand upon the ice, whereby they were enabled eaſily to draw the guns without any danger of the horſes feet ſlipping; they immediately drove in our advanced poſts which fell back upon the village of Metteren, and again took poſſeſſion of Tiel. General Dundas who was at Metteren, hoped to have checked the farther progreſs of the enemy at that place, but they proved much too ſtrong for him, and drove in all the poſts of Heſſians near him, in conſequence of which he reſolved immediately to unite his troops and the whole of the Heſſians under General Dalwig, who was ſtationed at Buren, and make a ſecond effort to drive them acroſs the river; this was to be attempted at day break in the morning.

Monday, Jan. 5. This morning General Dundas again moved to attack the enemy, but finding them too ſtrong, he was under the neceſſity

ceſſity of halting at Geldermalſen, until he ſhould be better informed reſpecting their deſigns. In this ſituation the enemy attacked the poſt of Metteren, (about a mile in front) where 80 cavalry, and a detachment of the 33d regiment were ſtation with two ſmall field pieces; this poſt was charged by a large body of the enemy's cavalry with great impetuoſity, they were ſupported by a great number of rifle-men, who came upon our troops from all quarters, making every diſpoſition to ſurround the poſt, which made it neceſſary for them to fall back upon Geldermalſen, in which movement they were very hard preſſed by the enemy's huſſars who had for ſome time the advantage, and poſſeſſed themſelves of the two cannon, but they could not long keep them, for our reſerve coming up, the enemy were charged in their turn, the guns retaken, and after a heavy firing on both ſides for above an hour, they were driven back upon Metteren, with conſiderable loſs; on our part the loſs was alſo conſiderable, we had four officers (Major General Sir Robert Lawrie, Captain Elliott of the 33d, Captain Duncan Munro of the 78th, Lieutenant Lamont of the 42d regiment) and fifty four rank and file wounded; three rank and file and one horſe killed, and one ſerjeant ſix rank and file and nine horſes miſſing; the regiments engaged

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were the 11th light dragoons, and the 33d, 42d, and 78th foot, of which the 78th ſuffered moſt, as it was the advanced companies of that regt. that ſuſtained and checked the charge of the enemy's cavalry.

Tueſday, Jan. 6. From the encreaſed ſtrength and advantageous poſition of the enemy, Gen. Dundas thought proper to fall back upon Buren during the night; this was effected unperceived by the enemy, the fires being left burning in order to deceive them.

As the troops for ſome time paſt had undergone a very great degree of fatigue, and ſuffered much from their diſtreſſing ſituation for want of cantonments, by which they were under the neceſſity of paſſing theſe cold and dreary winter nights, without any covering or ſhelter whatever, it was judged proper to draw off our army from their preſent ſituation, and to take up a poſition behind the river Leck, (leaving picquets on the Waal,) where the troops could be accommodated with cantonments, of which they were much in need, to afford them ſome ſhelter from the extraordinary ſeverity of the weather; for this purpoſe, part of the troops croſſed this day, the river being every where frozen over and paſſable, though one of the principal

principal branches of the Rhine, very broad and extremely rapid; but it ſeemed as if the elements had conſpired with the enemy againſt us, for this river (as well as the Wall) had not been frozen over for ages before, and now the ice was ſo ſolid in every part as to admit with eaſe the paſſage of our heavieſt artillery and ammunition waggons; and even whole regiments of cavalry at a time.

This afternoon there being every appearance of a favourable thaw; counter orders were iſſued to thoſe troops who had not croſſed the river, to remain in their preſent ſituation, and for thoſe which had already croſſed, to return to their former poſition; as, ſhould the thaw continue, there was yet every probability of maintaining our ſituation on the Waal, and of driving back thoſe of the enemy who had already croſſed that river; but in this our hopes were fruſtrated, for on Thurſday, Jan. 8, the froſt returned with redoubled violence, thereby putting an end to our laſt hopes; as we were confident that the enemy would take the advantage of this opportunity, and by ſending over immenſe bodies of troops, oblige us to evacuate the country, and give up all hopes of ſaving Holland for which we had ſo long been ſtriving, and which we certainly ſhould have done, if we had not been obliged to

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